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## BOOK REVIEWS

*The Jews: A Study of Race and Environment.* By MAURICE FISHBERG. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1911. 12mo, pp. xix, 578.

The interesting volume at hand is "an attempt to present the result of anthropological, demographic, pathological, and sociological investigations of the Jews." The inquiries are founded on the measurements of about three thousand Jews in New York City, as well as on a collation of the literature on the different Jewish groups. The work is divided into a number of chapters which deal with: The physical characteristics of the Jews; Their types in various countries and the origin of these types; Proselytism and intermarriage among Jews; Demographic characteristics; Pathological matters; Social and economic conditions, education, occupation, criminality, political conditions, social peculiarities and their effects; and finally of assimilation of the Jews as contrasted with Zionism.

The book is quite a store-house of details on many of which it will be impossible to even touch in this review. It is remarkably free from bias. It is not as thorough and technical as might be desired by the professional scientist, particularly in history and in comparative anthropometric data, but is well adapted for the general intelligent reader. It contains much information which is not found presented together, or equally as well, in other sources, besides original data that are largely new.

Some of the principal points which the author brings out are, first, the fact, already fairly well known in anthropology, but little or not at all outside of that science, that the uniformity of social conditions of the Jews is not equal to and not co-existent with a homogeneity of physical type in the various groups of that people.

"Language, dress, deportment, manners, and customs, and even religion, are by no means sufficient to prove identity of origin, . . . and Renan's apt statement, '*Il n'y a pas un type juif, il y a des types juifs*,' is confirmed by a careful study of the somatic traits of the Jews in various countries, and often by the study of the Jews in a single country."

These physical differences are especially evident in the most important traits, such as the head form. "It is doubtful whether the most mixed of European nations, like the Italians or French, display any greater heterogeneity of cranial type than the Jews."

These differences are due, in the main, to incorporation, by conversion and clandestine or open unions, of other racial elements. "The cranial

type of the Jews in countries where they have lived for centuries coincides with the cranial types of the people around them. . . . Indeed, if the ancient Hebrews were long-headed as some are inclined to believe, then only those in countries where the non-Jewish population is of the same cranial type have remained unchanged in this regard; the bulk of the Jews in Europe have diverted from the original type, and are not at all of the race-type of the ancient Hebrews."

The only plausible explanation of the physical differences existing today among the Jews is that "by intermixture with their non-Jewish neighbors they have slowly acquired the cranial types prevalent in the countries in which they have lived for a long time."

The differences in stature, while in part possibly due to environment, are in the main also due to the same causes as the differences in the head form and in complexion, that is, to mixture with the racial elements among which the Jews live.

The apparent uniformity of the cast of countenance among the Jews is explained by a prolonged action of uniform social environment. It is a social and not an anthropological facial type. Under different conditions and with the discarding of peculiarities in dress, etc., coupled with an assumption of personal habits of the people among whom they live, this facial type, as well seen in this country, changes rapidly, becoming less and less recognizable.

On the whole, "there is no more justification for speaking of ethnic unity among the modern Jews, or of any *Jewish Race*, than there is justification to speak of ethnic unity of the Christians or Mohammedans, or of a Unitarian, Presbyterian, or Methodist race."

Among other of the more important admixtures among the Jews, the author recognizes the Negroid one, which, in the reviewer's opinion, is a fact that has hitherto not received due attention.

There are numerous interesting data on the increasing inter-marriages of Jews with people of other faith, on the increase and decrease of Jews in different countries, on their vitality, low mortality, especially from tuberculosis, and on other conditions of medical and sociological interest, for which the reader must be referred to the original. The so-called "tenacity of life," of the Jew is shown to be the result of his habits and "can equally be achieved by people of any race by adopting their mode of life." Their small liability to consumption is remarkable, but evidence, particularly in the United States, shows that it is not a racial trait.

As to the future of the Jews as such, the author expresses no great hope. Wherever state laws restricting their liberties and particularly

their inter-marriage with non-Jews are rescinded, the Jews give up their exclusive characteristics and mix with the other whites. The presence and enforcement of such laws is "more instrumental in maintaining Judaism than all the Rabbis in the world."

On the whole, the work in hand must be regarded as a well written and serviceable contribution to the subject with which it deals. It is particularly welcome as coming from one who is a Jew himself. It will, of course, scarcely be received with favor by the orthodox of that religion, for it weakens the artificial barrier between the Jew and his neighbours.

A. HRDLIČKA.

*The Prehistoric Period in South Africa.* By J. P. JOHNSON. London: Longmans, Green and Co., 1910. 89 pp., 6 pls., 47 figs.

Believing that geological and archeological research has established a definite sequence in the primitive cultures of the Old World, the author has used the one generally accepted for Europe as a basis for his classification of South African antiquities. In the introduction he emphasizes the importance of the data afforded by river terraces, citing as an example, southern England, where a single section reveals the stratigraphic relationship of the main divisions of the entire stone age—eolithic, paleolithic, and neolithic.

A chapter is devoted to eoliths from the Leijfontein farm, below Campbell Rand, near Campbell village, where patches of very old gravel, having no connection with any existing river, occur at the foot of the escarpment. Mixed with the gravel are much worn and highly glazed eoliths, a few of which are shaped from artificially produced splinters or flakes.

As to paleoliths, the author is of the opinion that those of the Acheulian type are distributed throughout the whole of South Africa, he himself having found them in the valleys of the Zambesi, the Elands-Rustenberg, the Magalakwin, the Selati, the Olifants, the Komati, the Vaal, the Caledon, the Orange, and the Zwartkops, at Algoa Bay.

Solutrean (paleolithic) sites are also widely distributed over South Africa, the Solutrean industry being distinctly more recent than the Acheulian; and, as is also the case in Europe, characterized by a pronounced development of the artistic faculty. South African petroglyphs and rock-paintings of Solutrean age are distributed over the whole area in question. The pecked or incised figures are mostly found on boulder-like outcrops of rock, either among kopjes or in the open field, while the frescoes are chiefly met with at the back of rock-shelters. Some of these